



**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND RESISTANCE
AS PORTRAYED
IN MILDRED D. TAYLOR'S *THE ROLL OF THUNDER HEAR
MY CRY***

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by herself without taking the results from other research in any university, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she did not take the material from other publication or someone else work except for the sources mentioned in references.

Semarang, May 2019

Debianandya Seiva Hanum Putri

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Keep Moving Forward

----Lewis, *Meet The Robinsons*

I am not weird, I am a limited edition

----Anonymous

This final project is dedicated to my beloved family

Who always be my hero, my support system,

And to myself who always be strong for every moment.

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Semarang, May 14th 2019

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ABSTRACT

Karya tulis ini berisi tentang diskriminasi rasial terhadap Orang Kulit Hitam dan resistensi mereka di Amerika Serikat bagian Selatan selama era *Great Depression* yang mana masih berlakunya Hukum Jim Crow, sebagaimana tercermin dalam novel *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* karya Mildred D. Taylor. Tujuan dari karya tulis ini adalah untuk menjelaskan masalah-masalah diskriminasi rasial dan resistensi yang tergambar dalam novel. Elemen intrinsik, seperti karakter, latar dan konflik akan dianalisis oleh penulis menggunakan pendekatan eksponensial. Pendekatan sosiologis digunakan untuk menganalisis elemen-elemen ekstrinsik seperti diskriminasi rasial dan resistensi. Untuk mengumpulkan data, penulis menerapkan studi pustaka, yaitu meneliti secara menyeluruh novel *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* dan juga membaca sumber-sumber tertulis lainnya, seperti penelitian terdahulu, buku, jurnal dan *e-books*. Hasil penelitian ini membuktikan bahwa keluarga Logan berjuang untuk mempertahankan tanah mereka, kebebasan dan harga diri mereka di tengah-tengah diskriminasi rasial yang mereka alami dari orang Kulit Putih atas dasar perbedaan ras. Hal tersebut menciptakan suatu resistensi yang dilakukan oleh keluarga Logan terhadap orang Kulit Putih.

Kata kunci: Orang Kulit Hitam, Diskriminasi Rasial, Resistensi, Warna Kulit

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

In 1619, the first 20 African were brought to Jamestown, Virginia. They were sold and made into slavery to the British colonies. Earlier, the Britain colonies treated prisoners as contract servants and would be released and then, gradually this practice was replaced by a race-based slavery system. Massachusetts was the first colony to legalize slavery in 1641, and it was followed by other colonies. Virginia states approved a law in 1662, which inherited slavery to enslave children and made non-Christian imported slaves became a slave for life (Howard and Cincotta, translated by Paraeonom (2004:28-29). The number of imported slaves from Africa increased rapidly in 1694 since rice cultivation was introduced in Carolina. Then, the demand for slave labours on colony plantations in the South soared greatly until 1859. Unlike the southern colonies, which relied on agriculture, the North colonies developed into urban and industrial societies so that they did not import many slaves from Africa.

Since the development of Black population, free Black populations emerged slowly and they were concentrated in port cities along the Atlantic coast, because they have more privileges there. In 1781, Mum Bett and another Massachusetts slave managed to sue their masters for freedom. It prompted the slaves from the South to escape to the North through a hiding network known as the Underground Railroad.

Untuk menangani salah satu masalah utamanya, pada bulan Maret 1865, Kongres mendirikan Biro Orang-Orang yang Dimerdekakan yang bertindak sebagai pelindung orang Afrika-Amerika. Pada bulan Desember di tahun yang sama Kongres meresmikan Amandemen ke-13 Konstitusi Amerika Serikat yang menghapus perbudakan.

[Howard and Cincotta, translated by Paraeonom (2004:189) explained that, to deal with one of the main problems, in March 1865, The Congress established the Bureau of Independent People

acting as protectors of African-Americans. In Desember of the same year, The Congress inaugurated the 13th Amendement to the United States Constitution which abolished slavery.]

Even though the slaves have been released but their status was still questionable. In 1865 and 1866, people in the South imposed series of laws known as black codes intended to limit their activities as being freed and ensure they were labourers. When the Reconstruction period would end, the Southern legislature began to enact the first separation law known as Jim Crow Laws in 1876, so that coloured skin was required to be separated from White People in all matters, such as transportation and restaurants [Howard and Cincotta, translated by Paraeanom (2004:194)].

This novel tells about Black People living in America during the Great Depression. In this era made the financial crisis for American society in a very long period of about five years. This happened because of the stock market had increased as well as land prices, so this era could be considered an era of abundance and prosperity. But, this prosperity was not experienced by everyone, especially by people who working in agriculture, ship-building, coal-mining, textile and shoe industries. Coupled with international market competition created by the importance of the growth of foreign tobacco, cotton, and sugar cane, which cannot be controlled by farmers. Hence, it made Black farmers who own land has decreased in number (Franklin, 1988:341).

In this novel, there is one Black family who act as a centre, it is the Logan family. Logan family needs to try to survive by keeping their land in the middle of the target of the debt-collector and trying to keep paying taxes and mortgages for the land. This family has three sons and one daughter named Cassie Logan. The story of the Logan family is told through the eyes of nine-year-old Cassie. She sees the world from the point of view of a little kid who does not know what injustice is. She finds it difficult to understand why the farm means so much to her father. However, she begins to reach a painful understanding when she

witnesses the hatred and destruction around her and learn when it is important to fight for a principle, even if it brings terrible hardships. She also had to see how his family had to fight a continuous battle as they struggle through poverty and for freedom.

The novel depicts discrimination issue. Discrimination can be built upon diverse race, ethnicity, religion or even social classes. It makes people have different or unequal behaviour against someone or society (Theodorson & Theodorson, 1979: 115-116). In this novel, discrimination occurs against Logan family, which are black people. The time setting of this novel shows the validity of Jim Crow Laws (*Separate but Equal*) which is the existence of racial-based separation.

"The separation or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social intercourse, by separate educational facilities, or by other discriminatory means" (Merriam-Webster). This issue is marked with school differences for black and white people.

Therefore, the writer sees a social situation in the novel and intends to describe the issues. The writer uses this novel to describe how the society's circumstance of United States is related to discrimination, and resistance.

1.2 Aim of the study

Based on the formulation of the problems described earlier, the objectives to be achieved from this research are:

1.2.1 To describe and analyze the intrinsic aspects.

1.2.2 To explain and analyze racial discrimination, and resistance issues experienced by the main characters in the novel.

1.3 Scope of The Study

The writer will analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the novel. The Intrinsic aspects consist of characters, setting, and conflict. While in the extrinsic aspects, the writer will focus on seeing the racial discrimination acts towards Logan's family as black people in *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* novel, and how they resist from discrimination they experience.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this research, the focuses that will be elaborated are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements include setting, character, and conflicts. While, the extrinsic elements include the issues portrayed in the novel such as, racial discrimination and resistance.

2.1 Intrinsic Aspects

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, in *Theory of Literature*, define intrinsic analysis as the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves (1977:139). The writer considers three elements as the most relevant related to the issues.

2.1.1 Characters

James L. Potter explains the definition characters are the essence and fundamental part of work of literary, which reflect the illustration of its work itself. (1967: 170). Characters also could be divided into some parts for its purpose for help to analyse some of literary works. The protagonist and the antagonist are the two differences from the character based on their duties (Nurgiyantoro, 2002:178).

2.1.2 Setting

Hugh Holman in *A Handbook to Literature* stated that setting is the backdrop of what happened in the narrative like drama or short story, which makes it external and internal part of narrative elements (1960:453). Setting can be distinguished into setting of place, time, and culture (Nurgiyantoro, 2000:227). The three elements influence one another.

2.1.3 Conflict

The term of conflict has many meanings in daily life. In a common sense, it means disagreement, debates, deposes or effort to against someone or something. Roderick Ogley (1991:402) defines conflict as incompatibility in the aim, goals, or interests of two or more individuals, groups or other units. The writer will explain together with the issues to be discussed in the extrinsic part.

2.2 Extrinsic Aspects

This kind of aspect is different from intrinsic aspect. Extrinsic aspect is the essential part of something but it comes from the outside.

2.2.1 Racial Discrimination

Every group or community in our life must ever feel the best and superior than any other groups. That thought led to underestimate other or moreover discriminate another. As well as racial discrimination, Blank Dabady and Citro in their *Measuring Racial Discrimination*, stated that racial discrimination is a racial group disparate acted and deprived, which other racial groups that are harmful acknowledge (2004:55). Racial discrimination occurs when “a member of one racial group is treated less favourably than another and suffers negative consequences” (2004:40). It is human ‘nature’ that people have fundamental belief of a person towards group of people of individual as a part of particular group. This belief could obtained by family or environment.

Discrimination exists wherever a given social status that it was claimed by a group that felt superior and exclusive. Usually, people who experienced discriminations are the minority ones or different from others.

2.2.2 Resistance

Long before the Civil Right Movements existed, many people who experienced discrimination could only receive the treatment as they were and were afraid to fight, because there was no legal law to protect. If there was any resistance, perhaps it was hidden and the act was not big that would made a change. However, some people who has given an extraordinary brave from God, they could recognize their strength and believe that they could make a change for better. As Michael Foucault describes power as those systems of control or dominance. It implies that people, who have self-reflection moment, have possibility to submit to normalization or to resist the power structures that normalize (1978: 95-96).

Jubany in Güell and Davis (2011: 197-217) said that, in order to recognize and understand the forms of resistance from an act of discrimination requires an

understanding of the degree to which discrimination is built and the role of some characters who are considered to have relevance to the experience. It needs conceptual but subjective approaches and perspectives in everyday life to understand the form of resistance. Adopting that paradigm to understand everyday life will lead to a greater understanding of various forms of discrimination and an understanding of the mechanisms for taking action against discrimination they experience.

2.2.3 Jim Crow Laws

Jim Crow is an era where White People do sometimes legal, illegal, but mostly immoral methods to maintain political and cultural domination of black people. Black people are considered as second class citizens. Blacks are denied the right to vote, and are separated from whites in most phases of life. In general, Black People are treated as if they are inhuman, it is an attempt to justify white supremacy and keep Black populations under strict White control. Racial segregation is the essence of Jim Crow, and the adoption of racist laws that are explicitly intended to keep blacks and whites from each other everywhere is a sign of the Jim Crow era. In this era, black access to public accommodation such as restaurants, buses and trains was restricted, and blacks were forced into separate (and lower) schools (The American Civil Right Unions, 2014: 1-6).

3. METHODS OF STUDY

3.1 Method of Research

In order to gather the information, the writer uses a library research method. This method involves identifying and locating relevant information, analyzing what

you found, and then developing and expressing your ideas. The primary data sources is Mildred D. Taylor's novel; *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*. Books, lecture materials, journals, previous studies, internet sources are used as secondary sources to this research.

3.2 Method of Approach

In this research, the writer will analyse the intrinsic elements using exponential approach. The exponential approach is the identification of archetypes and symbols in literature, and is used to tell of an author's experience (Monroe, https://prezi.com/m/mlwh9gdcqf-0/the-exponential_approach/, pg. 1, 2014). Moreover, the writer will use sociological approach to analyse extrinsic elements of the novel. According to Kennedy and Gioia's, cultural, economic and political aspects are the things that are criticized by a sociological approach. (1995:1801).

4. DISCUSSION

The writer would like to propose the sequence in elaborating the discussion below. The first one is intrinsic aspect. In that part the writer will explain the character

and characterization, setting and conflict. The second one is extrinsic aspect. There are two issues, racial discrimination, and resistance.

4.1 Intrinsic Aspects

4.1.1 Characters

The characters will be divided into two parts; there are protagonist and antagonists one.

4.1.1.1 Protagonists

The writer will give a limit to the discussion of characters below. The writer will describe that characters of the Logan family, because they are the main object of the discrimination in the novel.

4.1.1.1.1 Cassie. Cassie Logan is the third child of the Logan and she is a nine-year-old girl who forgetful person. She is also the narrator of the story and the main character. She did not understand the meaning of discrimination and why they received the treatment from the people around her, it would make her heart hurt, but she still faced it like an ordinary little girl who tried to understand the meaning of injustice.

4.1.1.1.2 Stacey. Stacey is the eldest child in the Logan. He is twelve. He is often moody and struggles to be seen as an adult, because he thinks that he should be act like the eldest one. He is very loyal to his friend T.J. Avery.

4.1.1.1.3 Mary Logan (Mama). Mama is a teacher at Great Faith Elementary and Secondary School. She is patient, brave and firm when discussing prejudice with her children. She is the first person on Logan family who make a boycott towards the Wallace's store.

4.1.1.1.4 David (Papa). David is Mr. Logan. Papa is away most of the time, because he is working on the railroad in Louisiana. He and his wife try to maintaining their dignity by fighting the injustices they receive from white people.

- 4.1.1.1.5 Big Ma.** Big Ma is Papa's mother. She is tall and strongly built. her clear, smooth skin is the color of a pecan shell. Big Ma knows about herbs and sometimes the neighbourhood ask her to cure the sick people. Her husband, Paul Edward, had bought 400 acres land from Mr. Hollenbeck Granger.
- 4.1.1.1.6 Christopher-John.** Christopher-John is the second child in Logan. He is short, round boy of seven. He took little interest in troublesome things, preferring to remain on good terms with everyone, but he always sensitive to others.
- 4.1.1.1.7 Little Man.** Little Man's real name is Clayton Chester, but nobody ever calls him that unless he is in trouble. Little Man is the youngest child in Logan. He always meticulously neat that never allowed dirt or tears to mar anything he owned.
- 4.1.1.1.8 Uncle Hammer.** He is the other son of Big Ma, which means he is Papa's brother. He works long away in the North. He is kind of person who cannot process a problem with carefully. He tends to reflect doing something, which he thinks it is right..

4.1.1.2 Antagonists

In this part, the writer will explain the characters that have the strongest antagonism in the story.

- 4.1.1.2.1 Harlan Granger.** He is the villain of the Logan family. The Logan's land was use to belong to his family, but they could not afford to pay taxes, they sold it to Paul Edward (Cassie's grandpa). Big Ma said that Mr. Granger want it back to him.
"and he wanted to buy back every inch of land that used to belong to the Grangers. Already had more'n four thousand acres, but he just itchin' to have back them other two thousand his granddaddy sold" [p.4,70]. Mr. Granger will do anything to get the land back to him.
- 4.1.1.2.2 The Wallaces.** Kaleb, Thurston And Dewberry. These brothers who owns the Wallace store which sell alcohol to children. The sharecroppers are indebted to landowners and can only get credit here to buy the items they need. Selling alcohol and providing a dance room only mean that they get more families in debt. They represent corrupt

white classes in the South during this time. And they are really bad news. This is what Mrs. Lanier and Mr. Avery said about the Wallaces brutal exploits:

"But them men dragged him [John Henry] and Beacon both outa that house, and when old man Berry tried to stop it, they lit him afire with them boys. 'It's sho' a shame, all right," said TJ's father, a frail, sickly man with a hacking cough. *"These folks gettin' so bad in here. Heard tell they lynched a boy a few days ago in Crosston"* [pg. 29].

4.1.1.2.3 **Lilian Jean Simms.** Lilian is the daughter of Mr. Simms, one of the white folks in the story. She is the villain of Cassie, it shown when Cassie accidentally bumps her.

"You can't watch where you're going, get in the road. Maybe that way you won't be bumping into decent white folks with your nasty little self" [p.3,86]. Because of that, Lilian humiliated Cassie on the Strawberry.

4.1.2 Setting

4.1.2.1 Time

The setting time occurs 1933 in the Great Depression era. Mostly the characters are poor just not because of Depression era but also because of racial inequalities in America especially in the South, and some of them must sold their land. It marks with Cassie's description that the cotton price dropped start in 1930 till that time in 1933. The cause of Great Depression Poverty included mass unemployment, high levels of debt, loss of savings as a result of the Wall Street Crash, bankruptcies and foreclosures and homelessness

4.1.2.2 Place

The major scenes in the novel is taken in several places in rural Mississippi. The story begin in dusty road from their home to their school Great Faith Elementary School. All Logan's children studying in Great Faith Elementary School and Secondary Schools which it is one of the largest black school in the county. For living, Logan's family shopping in the market in Strawberry. The scenes take place in the Logan's house and land. It shows with Cassie's description,

"A barbed-wire fence ran the length of the deep field, stretching eastward for over a quarter of a mile untill it met the sloping green pasture that

signaled the end of our family's four hundred acres. An ancient oak tree on the slope, visible even now, was dividing mark between Logan land and the beginning of a dense forest". [p.3, 3]

4.1.2.3 Social Enviroment

The social enviroment in this novel shows that the predominant color the places are red, like red dust, red mud and dirt. The black characters' economic life are quite struggle because of the farmers must pay rent for their land that make them give up on the profit. For Logan's family itself their struggle are to pay the taxes of four hundred acres of their own land and also there is a mortgage on the two hundred acres. So, it seems that they can not escaping from the poverty life.

4.1.3 Conflict

4.1.3.1 Cassie's conflict with Miss Crocker

The external conflict appears when the students of four grades received the book from the county but it turns out that the books were used to be Jefferson Davis County School which is the white children school. Moreover, the last page of the book there is a list of ownership for the book. In the last row there was written "*nigra*" with "*very poor*" condition of the book. Cassie feels angry for what is written in there, but her teacher Miss Crocker ignore the list and and report her to her mom who is also the teacher.

4.1.3.2 Cassie's conflict with Mr. Barnett

The conflict occurs when Cassie trying to remind Mr. Barnett-as polite as she could-who is meat seller in the market that T.J. is waiting first before thw white girl do. But, Mr. Barnett serves the girl first. Unfortunately, Mr. Barnett get angry with Cassie's statement an think that she is brash and no manner as a kid. So, Mr Barnett humiliated her in front of the shop with saying "*Whose little nigger is this!*" [p. 5,84]

4.1.3.3 Cassie's conflict with Lilian Jean Simms

The conflict appears after Cassie has problem with Mr. Barnett. As she gets out from Mr. Barnett's shop, accidentely she bumped into Lilian Jean. Cassie apologize as Lilian's wish, but it is not enough for her. Lilian wants Cassie to get down on the road. She said, "*You can't watch where you going, get in the road. Maybe that way you won't be bumping into decent white folks with your little nasty self*" [p.3,86]. The this is getting worse when Lilian's father come and

twisting Cassie's hand and shoved her off the sidewalk into the road and it makes Cassie landed in the bottom first on the ground.

Those conflicts reflect discrimination through action, pronunciation or writing that creates a trace of evidence. Discrimination is also characterized by a different treatment than others that causes victims to experience negative consequences.

4.2 Extrinsic Aspects

4.2.1 Racial Discrimination

The Logan family experiences more discrimination rather than other Black families, because they have their own land, which, Mr. Granger want it back. The land was used to Mr. Granger's father. He sold the land (2000 acres) because he could not pay the taxes. He sold it during Reconstruction, which made Mr. Granger's father has no money because of the war left them plum broke. Then, Cassie's grandfather bought 400 acre of the land. Therefore, Mr. Granger wanted to buy back every inch of land that used to belong to the Grangers. Most of the families they knew were sharecroppers who worked on the land of a white owner. Sharecropping is a system under which poor people exchanged labor for a share of a crop. The landowner sell them what they needed, including shelter, tools, food, clothes, and supplies. The items are bought on credit, and when the crops came in, the owner collect his debts from the sharecroppers' share of the crop. Because the landowners could charge whatever they liked, the sharecroppers entered into a cycle of debt from which they could not escape. The writer will write the evidences in order of time that the events happened.

There is news that the other Black family, the Berry had burnings on their land, and the owner Mr. Berry almost died because of that accident. The white man took a match of them. It was proven in the dialog between T.J and Stacey. Finally, T.J. said, *"Okay. See, them Berry's burning wasn't no accident. Some white men took a match to 'em."* [p.9,6]

It strengthened with Mrs. Berry statement about it. *"The fire burned him too bad. But he understands all right"*. That was shown that Mr. Berry still alive but his condition was so bad and also he could not speak. She also said,

“The Wallaces did that, children. They poured kerosene over Mr. Berry and his nephew and lit them afire” [pg.74]

It was proven that the white men did that. The white men refer to the Wallaces who own the Wallace store where the sharecroppers get credits for shopping. The Wallaces are brothers, consist of Kaleb, Thurston, and Dewberry.

The students of The Great Faith Elementary School have handles a book for the first time beside the Bible. Unfortunately, the book was a second book of white students from Jefferson Davis County School. This was known from stamped inside the cover was a chart of the owners before them.

PROPERTY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Spokane County, Mississippi September, 1922			
CHRONOLOGICAL ISSUANCE	DATE OF ISSUANCE	CONDITION OF BOOK	RACE OF STUDENT
1	September 1922	New	White
2	September 1923	Excellent	White
3	September 1924	Excellent	White
4	September 1925	Very Good	White
5	September 1926	Good	White
6	September 1927	Good	White
7	September 1928	Average	White
8	September 1929	Average	White
9	September 1930	Average	White
10	September 1931	Poor	White
11	September 1932	Poor	White
12	September 1933	Very Poor	nigra
13			
14			
15			

A1. Page 17-18 [Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry novel]

The picture A1 above was the chart of the ownership. Little Man was so mad about it because he thinks they will get real new books, unfortunately it was the second book from the Jefferson’s student. There was also written in the last chart that The Jefferson’s called them as nigra. Miss Crocker did not seem concern about it, instead she justified the statement nigra with saying: *“That’s what you are,” she said coldy.*

Another conflict was The Jefferson school got the bus for the kids, while in the Great Faith was not. Every morning when the Logans walking to school, the driver will splashing the murky water into them. It describes in the paragraph, “Knowing that the bus driver liked to entertain his passangers by sending us

slipping along the road to the almost inaccessible forest banks washed to a smooth baldness by the constant rains,...” [p.2,32]

It shows that the driver consciously do that just because either want to entertain the students or humiliate the Logan’s children.

When Cassie and Stacey go to the Strawberry for the first time, Cassie get trouble with Lilian Jean. She accidentally bumped into Lilian when she trying to avoid Mr. Barnett, and Cassie say sorry to her. But, that was not enough for her. She said to Cassie *“That ain’t enough. Get down in the road.”* Cassie refused it. Unfortunately Mr. Simms came and ask Cassie to say sorry and call Lilian with Miss in front of people *“You hear me talking to you gal? You apologize to Miz Lilian Jean this minute”* [pg.86]. That made Cassie broke because they have the same age and called Lilian with Miss means she was older and good than Cassie.

When Mrs. Logan covers the chart of the book, it turns out that white folks do not stay silent. Kaleb Wallace and Mr. Granger fired her through Mr. Wellever as a principal of Great Faith Elementary school. Mr. Granger said,

“Well, if it ain’t in here, then you got no right teaching it. This book’s approved by the Board of Education and you’re expected to twach what’s in it.” [p.2,140]

After saying that, Mr. Wellever does not give support for Mrs. Logan. It shows that Mr. Granger still trying to get back his land by this way. If Mrs. Logan get fired than she do not get payment to pay the mortgage until the due.

This time the conflict came from the Wallaces, they shoot Mr. Logan and trying to hurt either Mr. Morrison or Stacey. It is shown in what Stacey describing,

“A truck come up the road and stopped behind us while we was trying to get that wheel on,..” “Anyways, there was three men in that truck and soon as Papa see ‘em, he reached for his shotgun. That’s when they shot him and he fell back with his left leg under the wagon.” [p.14,162]

The Wallaces made it on purpose, because of they did not accept what Mrs. Logan did to boycott Wallace store.

Thing get worse, while The Logan did not pay the mortgage yet, Mr. Granger advanced the due and finally he sent an envelope to tell that

the due was close. The land got back to the Grangers. It shown in the dialog between Mr. Logan with Mr. Morrison and Big Ma.

“I tried to get them to wait till after cotton picking, but they told me it was due and payable immediately. Them’s they words.” “And Mr. Higgins at the bank, David. What he has to say?” “Said our credit no good anymore.” [pg.176]

Mr. Granger also use his connection with people in the bank to forbid the Logan take the credit anymore.

4.2.2 Resistance

In one of the most well-known quotes of Michel Foucault, he claims that “Where there is power, there is resistance” (1978: 95–96). This also mean, as Lila Abu-Lughod observes, that “where there is resistance, there is power” (1990: 42). Still, social science has been, as was Foucault, preoccupied with exploring power, but has been largely isolated from an analysis of resistance. Since resistance is helpful in order to understand power it seems necessary, also for the sake of understanding power, that we strengthen resistance studies

Little Man is the youngest one on the Logan family. He was upset because he got the second book from the whites and nicknamed *nigra*, so he tried to denied the book by flinging it to the floor and stomping madly upon it. His sister Cassie trying to show what makes Little Man so mad, but Miss Crooker exactly agree on what written in the book (*nigra*) because that is the fact of them. Because of that, Cassie also refuses the book as Little Man did. The resistance act also did by Mrs. Logan, after Miss Crooker told her what had happened in the class. Mrs. Logan covers the table with a paper. It shown in the description,

“She had trimmed the paper to the size of the books and was now dipping a gray-looking glue from the brown bottle onto the inside cover one of the books. Then she took the paper and placed it over the glue”. [p.3,21]

Mrs. Logan shows to her children that what was written in the book was not true, and they must resist of what they believe is right.

Stacey get the idea to revenge to the bus driver from the Jefferson with making a trap.

“Cassie, you start digging over there on that side of the road right across from me. That’s right, don’t get too near the edge. It’s gotta look like it’s been washed out. Chistopher-John, you and Little Man start scooping out the mud from the middle of the road. Quick now.” [p.4,38]

Stacey wants the bus stuck in their hole trap and broke the wheel, so the student can not go to school by bus.

The moment after Mrs. Logan visited Mrs. Berry and knew that Mr. Berry was disabled because of the fire accident, she ask her students’s family to stop shopping in the Wallce store.

On the way home we stopped at the homes of some Mama’s students, where families poured out of tenant shacks to greet us. At each farm Mama spoke of the bad influence of the Wallaces, of the smoking and drinking permitted at their store, and asked that the family’s children not be allowed to go there. [p.6,74]

It shows that Mrs. Logan wants to broke the Wallaces by boycott their store. The conflict is man vs society, that the man is Mrs. Logan while the society is the Wallaces and their friends.

The resistance also shown by Uncle Hammer. After heard the story from Cassie that she was discriminated by Mr. Simm and he did not accept it and went to his house. Uncle Hammer said,

“ Don’t worry. I ain’t gotta use David’s gun....I got my own.” But Uncle Hammer gently but firmly pushed her to one side and brushing Big Ma from his arm, opened the door and bounded down the steps into the light rain. [p.2,93]

He shows the disagreement with Mr. Simms behaviour toward the child, and he does not afraid to resist it. Cassie did resistance too. She asks Lilian to accompany her into the woods during the break and fought with her. It was shown in the description:

I flailed into her, tacking her with such force that we both fell. After the first shock of my actually laying hands on her, she fought as best as she could, but she was no match for me. I was calm and knew just where to

strike. I punched her in the stomach and buttocks and twisted her hair, but not once did I touch her face. [p.5,137]

Cassie revenges to her because of what Lilian did in the Strawberry and trying to show Lilian how hurt she is because of that.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the study conducted by the writer, it can be concluded that there were racial discriminations happened to the Logan family, during the Great Depression era in United States, particularly in Mississippi. There is a family named Logan family as main characters in the novel, which experiences the racial discrimination surrounding, and sometimes-white people treat them badly. Sometimes these things make the children of Logan family upset and they feels inferior. However, Mr. and Mrs. Logan taught their children to believe that every human has the same dignity and position whether they have the differences of physical and dare to fight something that was indeed wrong. For that reason, Logan family resist of any kinds or racial discriminations that they were experienced, because they believe that everyone is equal whether they have different skin color, race or religions.

The reality of resistance acts from who experience various forms of discrimination are not explored or understood without a perspective that defines the intersection of resistance to various discrimination. This project describes how the Logan family became independent of the discrimination they experienced. The resistance only applies to one party, which is only on the victim's side, and this will continue when the institution is unable to defend the rights of victims of discrimination. This is supported by the Jim Crow Laws "Separate but Equal" which tends to create a social class against black and white people where white people in the superior class and black people are in the inferior class. With this social class, white people will continue to discriminate against black people. However, it does not prevent the Logan family from standing against those discrimination to fight for their rights.

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